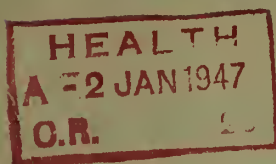


LIBRARY



DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
-----



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

---oOo---



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year 1945.

The report is divided into the following sections :-

- A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.
- B. General provision of Health Services for the area.
- C. Sanitary circumstances of the area.
- D. Housing.
- E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- F. Prevalence of, and control over Infectious Disease.

SECTION "A"STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ... ..	51,453.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books ... ..	3,802.
Rateable value ... ..	£80,186.
Sum represented by one penny rate ....	£351. 9s. 2d.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1945) ... ..	12,070.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	200.	99.	101.
Illegitimate	23.	14.	9.
Total	223.	113.	110.

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 18.47

Birth Rate for England and Wales for the  
same period 16.1

<u>Stillbirths.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	6.	4.	2.
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	6.	4.	2.



Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 26.9

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	139.	68.	71.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population 11.5

Death Rate for England and Wales 11.4

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	10.	5.	5.
Illegitimate	2.	1.	1.
Total.	12.	6.	6.

Infantile Mortality Rate for the year 53.8

Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for the same period 46

Deaths from Special Causes.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Whooping Cough	-	1.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2.	1.
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1.	1.
Cancer	7.	10.
Diabetes	1.	2.
Cerebral haemorrhage	8.	11.
Heart disease	13.	15.
Other circulatory diseases	3.	3.
Bronchitis	6.	3.
Pneumonia	3.	-
Other respiratory diseases	2.	1.
Gastric or duodenal ulcer	1.	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1.	1.

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30
31	32	33
34	35	36
37	38	39
40	41	42
43	44	45
46	47	48
49	50	51
52	53	54
55	56	57
58	59	60
61	62	63
64	65	66
67	68	69
70	71	72
73	74	75
76	77	78
79	80	81
82	83	84
85	86	87
88	89	90
91	92	93
94	95	96
97	98	99
100	101	102



<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Appendicitis	-	1.
Other digestive diseases	-	1.
Nephritis	4.	2.
Diseases associated with childbirth	-	1.
Prematurity congenital malformations and birth injuries	3.	4.
Suicide and other violent causes	7.	4.
All other causes	6.	9.

### SECTION "B"

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

##### a) Laboratory Services.

These are provided at the County Council's laboratory in Worcester.

##### b) Ambulance Service.

The district is served by the Droitwich and District ambulance association for cases of accident or general illness.

Infectious cases are removed to hospital in an ambulance provided by the Isolation Hospital authorities.

##### c) Nursing in the Home.

Is provided by the local District Nursing Associations.

##### d) Hospitals.

Cases of infectious disease needing hospital treatment are removed to Hill Top Isolation Hospital. Bromsgrove.

Cases of Tuberculosis are admitted to Knightwick Sanatorium and Hill Top Isolation Hospital.

Treatment for cases of Veneral disease is provided by the County Council at the following hospitals free of charge :-





General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.

Kidderminster & District General Hospital.

Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Guest Hospital, Dudley.

Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge.

e) Clinics.

The district is served by Infant welfare clinics at Droitwich, Worcester, Ombersley and Stourport and antenatal clinics at Worcester, Droitwich and Stourport.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

a) Water Supply.

During the year the Rural District Council obtained the services of Major A. H. S. Waters, V.C., M.Inst.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.Struct.E., M.Inst.W.E., as their consultant to advise them on the question of a piped water supply to the whole area.

The following are extracts from his report to the Rural District Council "Quite apart from potential requirements involved in compliance with the intention of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944, there is in some portions of your Rural District an existing acute shortage of supply.

Out of twenty-three parishes, only some seven parishes are to any important extent fed with water from publicily owned piped supplies; and your anxiety that this condition of affairs should be remedied without delay is readily appreciated."



"there is no doubt whatever in my mind that water, at practicable cost, from one source or another can and should be brought to every reasonably considerable centre of population in your District!"

The following Table shows the results of samples of water taken for bacteriological examination during the year :-

Date.	Address.	Source of Supply	Result.
8/1/45.	Tomlins Cottage, Dodderhill Common.	Well.	Unfit .
27/1/45.	Lock House, Tolladine.	Well.	Unfit.
9/2/45.	The Rectory, Salwarpe.	Well.	Fit.
9/2/45.	School House, Salwarpe.	Well.	Fit.
21/2/45.	Hill Farm, Doverdale.	Well.	Unfit.
28/2/45.	3, Stourport Road, Hartlebury.	Well.	Unfit.
13/3/45.	Laburnum Villa, Fernhill Heath.	Well.	Unfit.
27/3/45.	New Brighton Farm, Crowle.	Well.	Fit.
13/4/45.	Tapenhall Farm, Dilmore Lane, Claines.	Well.	Fit.
4/6/45.	Winnal Cottage, Lineholt.	Well.	Unfit.
6/6/45.	Ten Houses, Oddingley Lane, Oddingley.	Well.	Fit.
18/6/45.	Galton Arms, Himbleton.	Well.	Unfit.
18/7/45.	Goldness Cottages, Worcester-Road, Hartlebury.	Spring.	Unfit.
20/7/45.	Hill Farm, Doverdale.	Well.	Unfit.
31/7/45.	Tinkers Cross Cottages, Claines.	Well.	Unfit.
11/8/45.	Oakley Cottages, Nr. Droitwich.	Well.	Unfit.
17/8/45.	Jubilee Cottages, Parsons Lane, Hartlebury.	Well.	Unfit.
22/8/45.	Goldness, Worcester Road, Hartlebury.	Deep Pump.	Unfit.
22/8/45.	ditto. ditto.	Softened Spring	Unfit.
22/8/45.	Church View, Quarry Bank, Hartlebury	Well.	Unfit.
16/11/45.	Tinkers Cross Cottages, Claines.	Well.	Fit.



Date.	Address.	Source of Supply	Results.
16/11/45.	Lower Goosehill, Hanbury.	Spring.	Fit.
11/12/45.	Broad Alley, Cutnall Green.	Well.	Unfit.
11/12/45:	The Cottage, Perry Mill Lane, Bradley Green.	Well.	Fit.
17/12/45.	St. Elmo, Stourport Road, Hartlebury.	Well.	Fit.

b) Drainage and Sewerage.

No extension of sewerage schemes was carried out during the year, but the Council obtained the services of Mr. Arnold Brooksbank, M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.W.E., as their consulting engineer and during the year he made a survey of the district and submitted a report to the Council on the sewerage requirements and possibilities of the Rural District.

c) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector on this work is attached.

SECTION "D"

HOUSING.

During the year, the first post-war year's housing programme was considered by the Council.

Sites were selected for the building of houses by the Council at Ombersley, Crowle, Fernhill Heath and Wychbold, Tibberton and Hanbury.

Preparation of the site for the first 20 houses to be built at Fernhill Heath and preparation of the housing sites at Ombersley and Crowle were well in hand by the end of the year.





During the year a survey of all working class houses in the district was begun, this work is reported on in detail by the Sanitary Inspector. Most useful information on the housing conditions in the district will be available when this survey is completed.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

- |    |  |       |
|----|--|-------|
| a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ... ..)   | 32.   |
|    | And number of inspection made for the purpose ...  | 46.   |
| b) | Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..   | 1214. |
|    | And number of inspections made for the purpose ...   | 1300. |
| c) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..                                    | 151.  |
| d) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of these referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. | 785.  |

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	96.
--	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| a) | Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936 ... ..  |      |
| 1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs (or defects remedied ... ..) | 3.   |
| 2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-                             |      |
|    | a) By owners ... ..  | 3.   |
|    | b) By Local Authorities in default of owners   | Nil. |
| b) | Proceedings under Public Health Acts.  |      |
| 1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..        | 5.   |





8.

- 2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-
- a) By Owners ... .. 5.
  - b) By Local Authority in default of owner ... Nil.
  - c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of Housing Act 1936.
  - 1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. Nil.
  - 2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... Nil.
  - d) Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act 1936.
  - 1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil.
  - 2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil.

#### SECTION "E"

##### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A detailed report on this work is given by the Sanitary Inspector

##### ADULTERATION OF FOODS.

I am indebted to Mr. E. A. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council for the information that 36 samples of milk and 3 samples of other foods were examined under the Food and Drugs Act 1938. One sample of milk was found to be deficient in fat content and the vendor was cautioned.

#### SECTION "F"

##### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

##### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised during the year, either at clinics and schools, or by the general practitioners was as follows :-



1) Pre-school children	196.
2) School Children	47.
	<hr/>
Total	243.
	<hr/>

At the end of 1945 the percentage of the child population immunised in the groups 0 - 5 years and 5 - 15 years was estimated to be 64% and 77.5% respectively.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year are shown in the following tables :-

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Acute Lobar Pneumonia	1.	Nil.	Nil.
Anterior Poliomyelitis	2.	2.	Nil.
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2.	Nil.	Nil.
Chicken Pox.	2.	Nil.	Nil.
Diphtheria	7.	7.	Nil.
Erysipelas	2.	Nil.	Nil.
Influenzal Pneumonia	1.	Nil.	Nil.
Measles	124.	5.	Nil.
Meningitis	1.	1.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	29.	21.	Nil.
Whooping Cough	33.	Nil.	Nil.

PARISH	Acute Lobar Pneumonia.	Acute Primary Pneumonia.	Anterior Poliomyelitis.
Hartlebury.	Nil.	2.	1.
Ombersley	Nil.	Nil.	1.
North Claines	1.	Nil.	Nil.

PARISH	Erysipelas.
Doverdale.	1.
Ombersley.	1.

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country.

The second part of the report deals with the economic situation. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's economic development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country.

The third part of the report deals with the social situation. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's social development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country.

The fourth part of the report deals with the political situation. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's political development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.	41.	42.	43.	44.	45.	46.	47.	48.	49.	50.	51.	52.	53.	54.	55.	56.	57.	58.	59.	60.	61.	62.	63.	64.	65.	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.	71.	72.	73.	74.	75.	76.	77.	78.	79.	80.	81.	82.	83.	84.	85.	86.	87.	88.	89.	90.	91.	92.	93.	94.	95.	96.	97.	98.	99.	100.
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.	41.	42.	43.	44.	45.	46.	47.	48.	49.	50.	51.	52.	53.	54.	55.	56.	57.	58.	59.	60.	61.	62.	63.	64.	65.	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.	71.	72.	73.	74.	75.	76.	77.	78.	79.	80.	81.	82.	83.	84.	85.	86.	87.	88.	89.	90.	91.	92.	93.	94.	95.	96.	97.	98.	99.	100.
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.	41.	42.	43.	44.	45.	46.	47.	48.	49.	50.	51.	52.	53.	54.	55.	56.	57.	58.	59.	60.	61.	62.	63.	64.	65.	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.	71.	72.	73.	74.	75.	76.	77.	78.	79.	80.	81.	82.	83.	84.	85.	86.	87.	88.	89.	90.	91.	92.	93.	94.	95.	96.	97.	98.	99.	100.
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

PARISH.	Measles.	Meningitis.	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough
Claines.	2.	Nil.	6.	2.
Crowle.	7.	Nil.	Nil.	2.
Dodderhill.	17.	Nil.	10.	Nil.
Doverdale.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	2.
Elmbridge.	2.	Nil.	1.	Nil.
Elmley Lovett	Nil.	Nil.	1.	4.
Hampton Lovett.	3.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Hanbury	22.	Nil.	1.	3.
Hartlebury	10.	1.	1.	Nil.
Himbleton	1.	Nil.	Nil.	10.
Hindlip.	1.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Huddington.	5.	Nil.	Nil.	5.
Martin Hussingtree.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1.
Newland.	6.	Nil.	2.	Nil.
Oddingley	12.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Ombersley.	21.	Nil.	1.	Nil.
Salwarpe.	1.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Stock & Bradley.	2.	Nil.	2.	Nil.
St. Martin County.	5.	Nil.	2.	Nil.
Tibberton.	4.	Nil.	Nil.	3.
Upton Warren.	3.	Nil.	2.	Nil.

PARISH.	Influenzal Pneumonia.	Chicken Pox.	Diphtheria.
Hampton Lovett.	Nil.	Nil.	1.
Hartlebury	1.	2.	1.
Ombersley	Nil.	Nil.	1.
St. Martin Co.	Nil.	Nil.	4.







TUBERCULOSIS. The following Table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and Deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Over 5	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
" 15	3.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
" 25.	1.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
" 35	1.	2.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1.	Nil.	Nil.
" 45	Nil.	1.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1.	Nil.	Nil.
" 55	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
65 and Over	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
TOTALS	5.	3.	Nil.	Nil.	1.	2.	Nil.	Nil.

Cases remaining on Register at End of December 1944.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
	19.	22.	6.	4.
	23.	23.	6.	4.

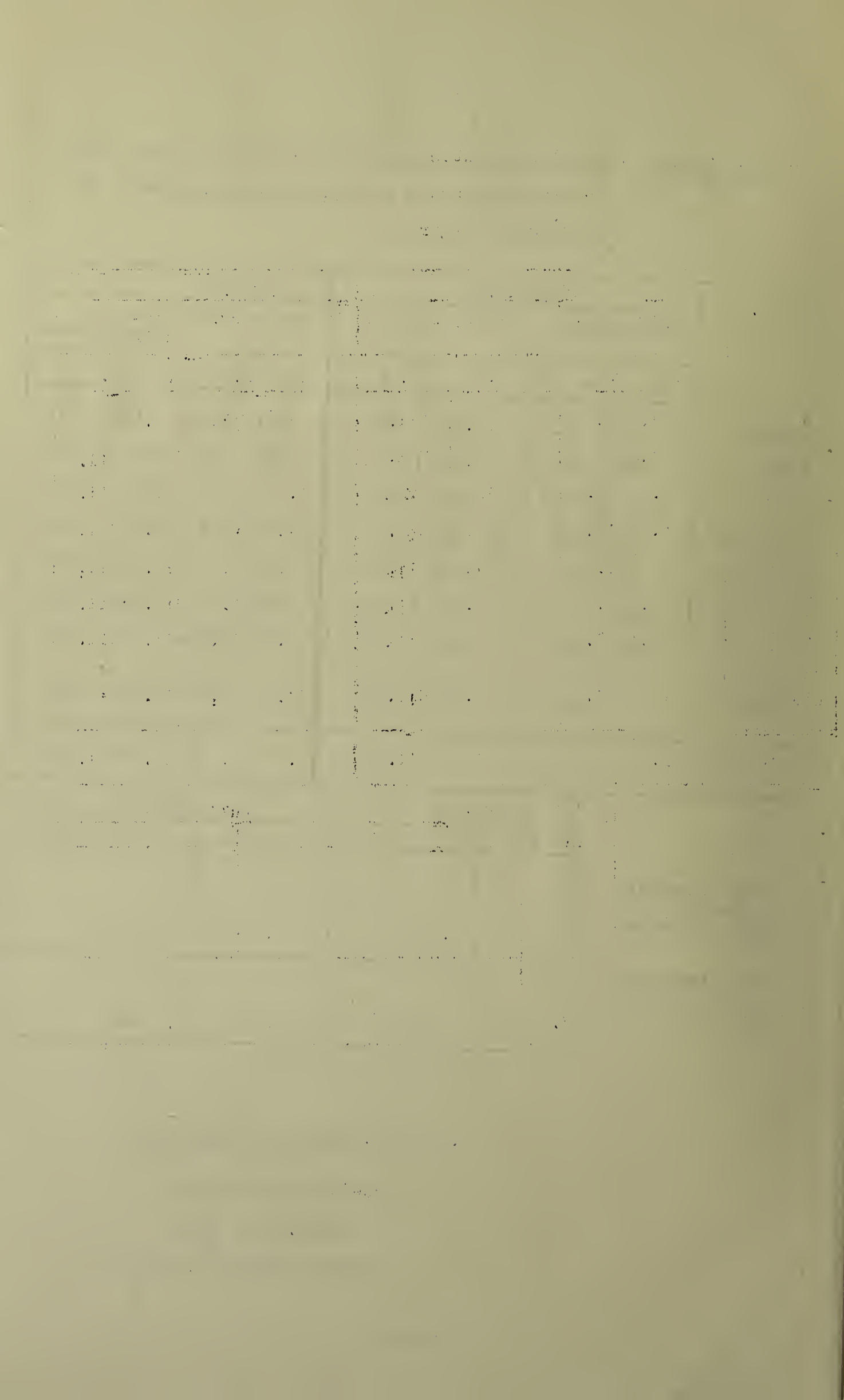
Cases remaining on Register at End of December 1945.	19.	22.	6.	4.
Cases remaining on Register at End of December 1945.	23.	23.	6.	4.

I am, Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MARGARET C. FELL.

Medical Officer of Health.



DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

-----

ANNUAL REPORT 1945.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I beg to submit a report upon the work of your Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor's Department for the year ended 31st December 1945.

The Department was largely concerned during the year with the preparation of schemes for the post-war years. The work was exacting for in addition to this and to carrying out normal duties with a depleted qualified staff an effective start was made on a comprehensive housing survey of the rural district to implement the recommendations which has become generally known as the Hobhouse Report on Rural Housing. A great deal of time was taken up in assisting the Council's consulting engineers in the compilation of their reports upon the provision of piped water supplies and sewerage consequent upon the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act of 1944. Also the preparation of the Council's initial post-war housing programme commanded much time, particularly the selection of sites and the work involved in their pilotage over the numerous obstacles incidental to approval and in drawing up detailed arrangements necessary for the first year's building schemes.

By the end of the period under review much of the preliminary spadework had been accomplished and it is to be hoped the subsequent years will see the Council's schemes brought to fruition.

For ease of reference the report is divided into the following categories namely :-

General	paragraphs 1 & 2.	Food Inspection	paragraphs 22-32.
Sanitary Inspection	" 3 & 6.	Refuse Collection and Disposal	" 33-36.
Housing, Byelaws and Planning	" 7 & 12.	Petroleum Acts	" 37.
Water Supplies	" 13 & 18.		
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	" 19 - 21.		



GENERAL

1. In addition to general sanitary and housing duties the Department is responsible for the administration of your Byelaws in respect of new buildings, interim development planning, the maintenance of the Council's property, the supervision of public water supplies, sewers and sewage disposal plants and the collection and disposal of household refuse.

2. The staff employed during the year was as follows :-

One Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.

One Unqualified Assistant.

Two Temporary Housing Inspectors appointed for the purpose of the housing survey.

One water Inspector.

Two Clerks.

Eight Manual Workers.

3. Sanitary Inspection.

Inspections made during the year were :-

Housing (Public Health & Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	1372.
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	10.
Drainage including water, colour and smoke tests	...	...	...	...	34.
Rivers Pollution	...	...	...	...	3.
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	27.
Sewage Disposal Plants	...	...	...	...	15.
Rat and Mice Infestation	...	...	...	...	27.
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	36.
Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	5.
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6.
Cafes	...	...	...	...	7.
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	30.
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	2.
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	14.
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	27.





4. The improvements effected under the Public Health Acts are set out in the table below. The majority of the work was achieved by negotiation or preliminary notice but formal notice was served in 4 cases and in one case it was necessary to resort to court proceedings.

Dampness in houses abated	...	...	...	...	10.
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	14.
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	26.
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	25.
Defective sanitary fittings replaced	...	...	...	...	5.
Defective cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	5.
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	2.
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	30.
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	3.

#### Rat Destruction.

5. During the year an arrangement was agreed with Bromsgrove U.D.C., for the loan of their rat catcher to deal with infestations arising within the Droitwich Rural District. Under this scheme the services of an experienced operator is available for occupiers and owners of property and a nominal charge to the owner or occupier of 3/6d per hour is made to recover the cost of the labour and materials involved. A total of 10 infestations occurring on private property was dealt with in this way.
- Maintenance treatment of the Council's refuse tips which was formerly carried out by the County War Agricultural Executive Committee under contract was taken over by the Council during the year. The tips were kept under close observation and checked by periodical test-baiting. Initial and maintenance treatment of the sewerage systems was also undertaken.
- Opportunity has been taken during the course of the housing survey to record rat infestations and as many as possible have been treated, but the labour available has been insufficient to deal with all of them.





The results of the initial treatment of the sewers shown in the following table are considered satisfactory, especially in the case of the Fernhill Heath system. The outfall works were affected by an adjoining infestation on private land.

Site.	Manholes baited.	BAITS TAKEN							
		Complete.		Good.		Small.		Nil.	
		Pre. Bait	Poison. Bait	Pre. Bait	Poison. Bait	Pre. Bait	Poison. Bait	Pre. Bait	Poison. Bait
Ombersley	11.	Nil.	Nil.	8.	2.	12.	3.	23.	2.
Fernhill Heath	72.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	288	Nil
Outfall Works	Nil.	18.	6.	10	Nil	12.	4.	6.	2.

Co-operation with the County Council in preventing the pollution of streams was maintained during the year and three cases were dealt with.

## 7. HOUSING.

### Housing Survey

In common with all rural districts throughout the country and in order to implement the recommendations of the Hobhouse Report on Rural Housing a systematic survey of all houses in the district below a rateable value of £26 was commenced on 22nd April 1945. Standardised forms and a common policy was agreed on a county basis before the survey commenced. Briefly the object of the survey is to ascertain the state of repair of the houses in rural districts and the houses upon inspection are fitted in these categories :-

Category 1 - houses fit in all respects ;

" 2 - houses requiring minor repairs;

" 3 - houses requiring structural alterations ;

" 4 - unfit houses beyond repair at a reasonable cost.



Special note is made of overcrowded houses and houses suitable for re-conditioning with the aid of a grant under the former Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

When the survey is complete it will reveal the number of new houses necessary to replace those beyond repair and the amount of repair required to bring other houses to a satisfactory condition.

In addition a complete record of the accommodation, amenities and state of repair of all working class property in the rural district will be available for the first time. It is intended to make a special report on the completion of the survey early in 1947, but a record of the houses inspected during the period under review is shown here:

PARISH.	Houses inspected.	Classification of Houses.				Houses suitable for action under HSG (Rural Workers) Acts.
		1.	2.	3.	4.	
Upton Warren.	75.	36.	22.	10.	7.	Nil.
Elmbridge	92.	34.	36.	17.	5.	Nil.
Hampton Lovett.	48.	37.	8.	2.	1.	Nil.
Elmley Lovett	76	31.	18.	10.	17.	Nil.
Doverdale.	12.	6.	3.	1.	2.	Nil.
Omersley.	502.	174.	142.	125.	51.	17.
Hartlebury.	409.	160.	109.	82.	58.	5.
TOTALS	1214.	478.	338.	247.	151.	22.

#### 8. New Houses.

By the end of the year a contract had been signed for the erection of 19 three-bedroomed houses and one four bedroomed house at Station Lane, Fernhill Heath and 6 three-bedroomed houses at Crowle.

Work was almost due to start at the end of the period under review.

Seven houses built under licence by private persons had been completed and occupied by the end of the year.





9. The total number of plans dealt with during the year amounted to 49. Of these 47 were approved and 2 rejected, both for planning reasons. 16 plans related to domestic and 33 to non-domestic buildings.
10. There were 8 sites for temporary dwellings licenced allowing a permitted number of 410 dwellings. Probably due to petrol rationing they were sparsely occupied during the year and none of the dwellings are suitable for permanent occupation.
11. The licenced camping grounds, mainly situated near the River Severn were fully occupied during the holiday periods and were inspected for contraventions of byelaws. A number of such contraventions were observed and remedied by negotiation.
12. Civil Building Licences.

In August 1945 local authorities became the agents of the Minister of Works for the partial control of civil building and appointed officers were empowered to issue licences for housing repairs and certain non-housing work.

By 31st December the following licences had been issued :@

Housing - 50 licences for work costing - £7,091. 12s. 5d.

Non-housing - 54 " " " " " " - £2,346. 4s. 6d.

13. Water Supplies.

The parish of North Claines and parts of St. Martin County, Warndon and Hindlip are supplied by water purchased by the Council in bulk from the County Borough of Worcester and distributed through the Council's mains.

The number of properties so served is 481. A booster plant is employed to supply the village of Fernhill Heath and this continued to function efficiently during the year.

14. The parishes of Dodderhill, Upton Warren and part of the parish of Hadzor are supplied from the mains of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, as they lie within the statutory limits of the Company's area of supply. The number of properties so served is 280.





15. Sixty properties within the parish of Hartlebury are served with piped water from a borehole in private ownership. This supply again proved to be adequate during the year. A small number of properties in the Summerfield area of the Hartlebury parish are served from the Kidderminster mains.
16. During the year negotiations were opened by the Council to acquire water mains put down to serve military establishments but the negotiations had not been concluded by the end of the period under review.
17. General maintenance and routine inspections of the Council's Works and mains was carried out during the year and a total of 17 new connections were made to the mains.
18. Apart from those parishes mentioned above, the remainder of the rural district derives its water supply mainly from shallow wells. West of the Doverdale fault and in an area amounting to approximately one third of the district these are sunk into the Keuper sandstone and generally the supply has been adequate.
- East of the Doverdale fault the wells are sunk into the overlying marl and at the extreme south east of the district into the lias.
- In these areas the supply is capricious both in quantity and quality but no serious difficulty arose during the year. Sampling of private supplies was continued and the results are shown in the Medical Officer's report.
19. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.
- A considerable amount of time was given up during the year to sifting information to assist the Council's consulting engineer in preparing outline schemes for sewerage the village areas.
- The results of this work is shown in the consulting engineer's preliminary report which has been submitted to the Council.



20. Sewerage systems exist in the parishes of North Claines, Ombersley, Hartlebury and Dodderhill, but treatment is undertaken only in the case of North Claines where a modern sewage disposal plant was laid down in 1938. Satisfactory effluents were obtained during the year. The Ombersley system constructed in 1900 is in excellent condition, but provision for proper treatment is an urgent necessity. The Hartlebury system is a piecemeal affair and a comprehensive scheme is long overdue. The latter remarks apply in the parishes of Dodderhill and Crowle.
21. Cleansing and general maintenance was undertaken at the many small sewage installations existing in the district. The one situated at Waresley was a constant source of trouble and extensive reconstruction is necessary before a satisfactory effluent can be expected.

FOOD INSPECTION.

22. The four licenced slaughterhouses in the rural district were not in use during the year. Meat consumed in the district was drawn from the centralised Ministry of Food Abattoirs at Worcester and Kidderminster where systematic meat inspection is carried out by the officers of those authorities.
23. The carcasses of two pigs which were slaughtered for emergency reasons were examined and passed as fit for human consumption.
24. 7 licences to slaughter animals for food were renewed by the Council.
25. An inspection of the bakehouses of the district showed that these places were kept in good condition and that periodic limewashing was carried out.
26. Inspections of catering houses was carried out and in one case the place was in such a bad condition and the owner so unco-operative that it was necessary to take out a summons under the Food and Drugs Acts. A fine of £20 was imposed by the County Court and the place was closed pending complete reconstruction.



In another case sanitary accommodation was provided by the occupier.

27. Samples for the Food and Drugs Acts are collected by officers of the County Council.

28. Food condemned during the year comprised :-

Butter	14 lbs. 3 ozs.	Peas (loose)	245 lbs.
Margarine	6 lbs. 8 ozs.	Beans (loose)	17 lbs.
Lard	56 lbs.	Milk Powder	44 lbs.
Cheese	2 lbs. 12 ozs.	Pilchards	10 tins.
Carrots	8 tins.	Soup	2 tins.
Fish Roll	1 tin.	Coffee	8 ozs.
Edible Powders	3 lbs.	Egg substitute	14 lbs.
Oatmeal	38 lbs.	Canned Peas	17 tins.

29. Registrations required by the Milk and Dairies Regulations were as follows :-

Registered Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	166.
" " Producers	...	...	...	...	144.
" " Purveyors	...	...	...	...	71.

30. The following licences issued by the County Council to producers of designated milk within the rural district were in force at the 31st December 1945:

Accredited Milk

Production and Bottling	...	....	...	...	2.
Production only	...	....	...	...	32.

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Production and Bottling	...	....	...	...	1.
Production only	...	....	...	...	9.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations by the Council:-

Principal Pasteurisers Licences	....	...	...	2.	
Dealers for Tuberculin Tested Milk		...	...	5.	
Accredited Milk	...	...	....	...	Nil.
Supplementary licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	...	....	...	...	4.







31. The work of persuading milk producers to qualify for production of designated milk was carried on and I am pleased to report that the number of such producers is growing steadily.
32. A case of filling milk bottles in the street was detected and the case proved in the court.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

33. Collection of household refuse is carried out by the Council in the whole of the district. Collection is made by the Council employees using hired vehicles. In order to improve the collection the lorries employed were replaced by tipping vehicles during the year so that the time lag at the tips could be reduced. By the end of the period under review the collection periods were 3 weeks in the village areas and 6 weeks in outside areas.
34. Disposal of refuse is by tipping. Most of the tips are open to use by private individuals and are far from satisfactory. This is especially the case at Battleton Green where indiscriminate tipping made the tip an eyesore. The Withy Furlong tip was sealed during the year.
35. The following figures relate to the cost of refuse collection and disposal during the last three financial years ended 31st March :-

	1943-4.	1944-5.	1945-6.
	£.	£.	£.
Hire of Vehicles	1872.	2301.	2470.
Wages	618.	821.	911.
TOTALS	2490.	3122.	3381.



36. The department was again indebted to the members of the W.V.S., for their great help in collecting salvage during the year. Following the end of the war the public became less co-operative and the W.V.S., are to be congratulated on the amount of material collected. This is shown below :-

MATERIAL.	WEIGHT.				VALUE <sup>1</sup>		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper.	27.	18.	3.	0.	180.	2.	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ .
Bones.	2.	15.	0.	0.	14.	5.	5.
Iron.	13.	19	0.	14.	49.	16.	9.
Textiles.	4.	2.	0.	0.	55.	16.	6.
Bottles.		110 Dozen			4.	2.	6.
TOTALS	48.	14.	3.	14.	304.	3.	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

37. A total of 20 licences to store petroleum spirit were issued or renewed during the year.
38. I most heartily thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and the staff for their loyal help during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RONALD F. FRY.

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.

